

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Department of the Interior and Congress to permanently reauthorize “Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department of the
2 Interior and Congress to permanently reauthorize the “Land and
3 Water Conservation Fund.”
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a
6 federal program, created in 1965, which supports the acquisition of
7 land and conservation easements to protect our national parks,
8 wildlife, refuges, forests, trails, and Bureau of Land Management
9 sites; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The LWCF grants funds to the states for local and state
11 park needs; protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds, and
12 recreational access; and conserves working farms, ranches, and
13 forestlands that enhance local economies; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The LWCF has been one of our nation’s most successful
15 conservation programs, creating outdoor recreation opportunities in
16 every state and virtually every county, with projects ranging from
17 the creation of small urban parks to preserving Civil War
18 battlefields to building new trails in Rocky Mountain National
19 Park; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The LWCF does not use taxpayer dollars—instead it is
21 funded by existing offshore oil and gas drilling fees; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Since 1965, the LWCF has spent over \$18 billion
23 protecting and restoring outdoor areas; and

24 **WHEREAS**, According to the Trust for Public Land, each dollar
25 invested in public land returns four dollars in economic value to
26 communities surrounding the land; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Funding from the LWCF has contributed to the acquisition
28 or maintenance of many of New Jersey’s most treasured public
29 lands, including the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area,
30 the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, the Morristown
31 National Historical Park, the Pinelands National Reserve, Jesse
32 Allen Park in Newark, and the Salem River Wildlife Management
33 Area; and

34 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has received over \$122 million in funding
35 from the LWCF since its inception, supporting over 300 projects in
36 the State; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Census Bureau has found that 2.4 million people
38 hike, fish, or hunt in New Jersey each year, and the Outdoor
39 Industry Association has found that outdoor recreation annually
40 generates \$18.9 billion in consumer spending, supports 143,000
41 jobs, generates \$5.9 billion in wages and salaries, and contributes
42 \$1.2 billion to State and local tax revenue in New Jersey; and

43 **WHEREAS**, A recent national bipartisan poll revealed that 82 percent
44 of voters are in favor of continuing to fund the LWCF; and

45 **WHEREAS**, The LWCF expired on September 30, 2018, because it was
46 not reauthorized by Congress; and

47 **WHEREAS**, There are currently bills in Congress that would
48 permanently reauthorize the LWCF, including H.R.502, which

1 currently has more than 230 bipartisan cosponsors, more than a
2 majority of the chamber; now, therefore,

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Department
7 of the Interior and Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land
8 and Water Conservation Fund, due to the fund's long running
9 record of being a successful, effective, and highly popular program
10 to create state and local parks, conserve farms, ranches, and forests,
11 and enhance access to the outdoors for people all across the
12 country.

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14 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
15 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
16 and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary
17 of the Interior, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
18 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States
19 House of Representatives, and every member of the congressional
20 delegation from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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25 This resolution urges the U.S. Department of the Interior and
26 Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water
27 Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF expired September 30,
28 2018 because it was not reauthorized by Congress

29 The LWCF is a federal program that supports the acquisition of
30 land and conservation easements to protect our national parks,
31 wildlife, refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites. The LWCF also
32 grants funds to the states to create local and state parks, to preserve
33 historic sites and farms, and to protect critical wildlife habitat,
34 watersheds, and recreational access.

35 Funding from the LWCF has contributed to the acquisition or
36 maintenance of many of New Jersey's most treasured public lands,
37 including the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the
38 Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, the Morristown
39 National Historical Park, the Pinelands National Reserve, Jesse
40 Allen Park in Newark, and the Salem River Wildlife Management
41 Area.

42 It is therefore fitting and proper for this House to urge the
43 Department of the Interior and Congress to enact legislation that
44 permanently reauthorizes and fully funds this highly successful
45 program, which has funded many of New Jersey's most valued open
46 spaces.